



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Mr. James Cragin
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore
Mr. Michael A. Russell

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **SEPTEMBER 15, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Montano at 10:05 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Vito Cannella
John Hammargren
Carl Moore
Michael Russell

Absent

James Cragin
Frank Bacio

Others Present

Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra, Sheriff's Dept.
Doris Reed, Auditor-Controller
Kurt Barrow, Foster Care Quality Assurance
Jim Corbett, Executive Office
Dedie Ward, Commission Services
Sherry Scates, Commission Staff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren and unanimously carried, the August 11, 2004 minutes were approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2004

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore and unanimously carried, the August 18, 2004 minutes were approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano initiated a discussion regarding a donation to the family of Captain Michael L. Sparkes, Commanding Officer of Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, who was killed in the line of duty on August 10, 2004. On motion of Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Hammargren and unanimously carried, a \$100 donation from the Commission's Charitable Fund will be made to the Captain Michael L. Sparkes Fund in honor and remembrance.

Chair Montano shared the program book from the Los Pedrino's Prom "A Magical Summer Night" held on August 13th and noted that the prom was very well planned and the décor and entertainment were wonderful. She also noted that the Probation Department staff was very enthusiastic and supportive of the participants. Commission staff was directed to write a letter of congratulations to Mr. Richard Shumsky, with copies to the staff and volunteers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report

STAFF REPORT

Jim Corbett, Commission Services, reported that staff member Dedie Ward's father, Henry Hamptonie, passed away at 5:30 a.m. this morning, just four months after her brother Phillip passed. Chair Montano requested staff to make a \$100 donation towards an expression of condolence to Ms. Ward and her family. Commissioners agreed to adjourn today's meeting in memory of Mr. Hamptonie.

Sherry Scates, Commission staff, reported that Dr. Sanders' office, DCFS, has yet to identify a replacement for Robert Rogers as liaison to the Commission. She further noted that in response to the Commission's request, Lt. John Domen, Sheriff's Department, forwarded the list of appropriate contacts in his department,

CORRESPONDENCE

Due to time constraints, this item was held for the September 22nd agenda.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS

- **Sheriff's Department:** Lt. Linda Arthur-Parra reported that there were 2,019 male inmates and 1,836 inmates in the Twin Towers Facility. She noted that: the staff has been identified and a committee has been formed to organize the move of female inmates to Central Regional Detention Facility (CRDF); they are currently awaiting funding; the re-naming of CRDF to Sybil Brand Institute for Women is currently under consideration.
- **Probation Department:** Lydia Fernandez, Probation Ombudsman, was not in attendance.
- **Auditor-Controller:** Doris Reed, Group Home Audits, reported her office will be conducting a physical audit of the Redding House.
- **Dept. of Children and Family Services:** Kurt Barrow, Program Auditor, Foster Care Quality Assurance, discussed the Commissioners' experience at the Star View Group Home in Torrance. Mr. Barrow agreed to furnish a "Do Not Refer" list to the Commission.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION GOALS

Due to time constraints, this item was held for the September 22nd agenda.

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

O'Conner & Atkins Home – 73 #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 19th and found no one at home; no inspection could not be conducted.

New Outlook Boys Home – 73 #1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 19th and gave a rating of **unsatisfactory**. Areas of Concern: exterior and grounds were unkempt; fan in dining room needs cleaning; kitchen appliances need cleaning; inadequate supply of non-perishable foods; no key for snack & beverage cabinet; dirty dishes; no posted menu; quick-release window bars in 4 bedrooms were broken; insufficient linen supply; leak in bathroom fixtures; need new First Aid Kit; need batteries for smoke detector.

Dangerfield Group Home II – 24 #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 23rd and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported or observed.

Cunningham's Group Home – 24 #3

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 23rd and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Area of Concern: insufficient supply of linens.

Family Solutions II – 36 #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 26th and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported or observed.

Sand Hill Group Home – 98 #3

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on August 30th and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported or observed. Commissioners noted that there had been a big improvement since their last inspection.

RTI/Transitional Living Centers – 98 #1

Chair Montano visited this facility on August 31st and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported or observed.

RTI/Transitional Living Centers 2 – 97 #3

Chair Montano visited this facility on August 31st and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported or observed.

Heritage Homes 4 – 53 #2

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on September 3rd and 14th and found no one at home; no inspection could be conducted.

Star View Adolescent Center – 101 #2

Chair Montano visited this facility on September 7th and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of Concern: Although the facility itself was satisfactory, Commissioners expressed concern that they were told by the facility escort, Barbara O'Conner, not to disturb the female residents because they needed their privacy and noted that a male staff member was holding a door shut

preventing a female resident from coming out. Also, there were nine juveniles in the Puff Unit.

Homes of Hope Group Home/Casa Esperanza – 55 #3

Chair Montano visited this facility on September 9th and gave a rating of **excellent** with no areas of concern reported or observed.

Renaissance Unlimited 4 – 92#3

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren visited this facility on September 14th and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Area of Concern: quick-release window bars were broken on two windows.

Leroy Boys Home – 92 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on August 19th and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of Concern: exterior trim needs painting; dining room floor needs replacing; refrigerator needs new door handle; smoke detector needs batteries.

Aviva Center/Milken Diagnostic Center – 5 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on August 23rd and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of Concern: smoke detector needs batteries.

L.A. Youth Network/Taft House – 61 #2

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on August 26th and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of Concern: smoke detector needs batteries.

Children's Homes of So. Calif./Runnymede – 17 #1

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on August 30th and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of Concern: smoke detector needs batteries.

Heritage Group Home 5 – 53 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on September 2nd and gave a rating of **satisfactory**. Areas of Concern: one bedroom was very disorderly, but was straightened up before inspection completed; dirty clothes needed laundering.

David and Margaret Home – 25 #2

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on September 7th and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported or observed. Commissioners noted that a mental health contract /program was recently started.

Shamrock Cottage – New Location – 99 #4

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this new facility on August 26th and gave a rating of **excellent** with no areas of concern reported or observed.

Leroy Boys Home – 62 #3

Vice Chair Stathatos and Commissioner Cannella visited this facility on September 13th and gave a rating of **needs improvement**. Areas of Concern: bed was short sheeted; inadequate lighting**** reported or observed. Commissioners noted that facility now has Probation and drug/alcohol juveniles and that the facility has added extended pre-
emancipation and emancipation services.

Glass/St. Andrews House/Steven Giban Youth Home – 49 #1

Commissioner Moore visited this facility on September 1st and gave a rating of **satisfactory** with no areas of concern reported or observed.

CRA/Hilltop House – 19 #3

Commissioner Moore visited this facility on September 14th and found that it would be closed for two weeks due to major plumbing problems and that the residents had been temporally relocated.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To Be Presented and Placed On a Future Meeting Agenda)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m. in memory of staff member Dedie Ward's father, Henry Hamptonie.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates
Staff, Commission Services